

AUTO BANDITS KILL SHERIFF WIGERS

SHOOT DOWN OFFICER AND MAKE ESCAPE

Taxicab Driver Wounded When Holdup on Road Is Interrupted.

Bandits, thought to be three in number, shot and fatally wounded Sheriff J. W. Wigers, of a popular car driven about 9 p.m. last night nearly 10 miles from the town of Rock Island, Ill., on the Rock Island road about one and one-half miles east of Prospect, near the bridge where the Rock Island road crosses the Mississippi river. The bandits, who were armed with automatic pistols, shot the sheriff in the back of the head, and he fell from the car. The bandits then drove off with the car and the taxicab driver, who was wounded, was left on the road. The sheriff was taken to the Rock Island hospital, where he died.

VICTIM OF ROCK ISLAND'S REIGN OF TERROR



SHERIFF J. W. WIGERS.
(In uniform of Moline police department.)

The shooting was the culmination of an enterprise undertaken by an auto band with a view of getting the proceeds of yesterday's business as close as possible to the cash. The bandits, who were armed with automatic pistols, shot the sheriff in the back of the head, and he fell from the car. The bandits then drove off with the car and the taxicab driver, who was wounded, was left on the road. The sheriff was taken to the Rock Island hospital, where he died.

How many automobiles were used by the bandits is not known, but it is believed that there were at least three. The bandits, who were armed with automatic pistols, shot the sheriff in the back of the head, and he fell from the car. The bandits then drove off with the car and the taxicab driver, who was wounded, was left on the road. The sheriff was taken to the Rock Island hospital, where he died.

Run Into the City.
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and dashed back in the direction of Moline. Upon being notified by Mr. Lewis of the attempted killing, Sheriff Wigers called together Hanna and Hepburn, and in the sheriff's car, driven by Hanna, drove out toward the five-gallon houses on the Rock Island road.

As the sheriff and his deputies stood watching outside one of the houses, a car arrived at the roadhouse. After passing the party, driving east at a slow rate of speed. After proceeding some distance up the road the car stopped, and after a short interval turned back. As the car stopped, the sheriff and his deputies saw a man standing upon the running board.

Revealed by Lights.
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lured by Dr. Hendanville of Moline. In all, according to the reports, 12 or 13 shots were fired. At least 10 of the bandits were shot. The bandits, who were armed with automatic pistols, shot the sheriff in the back of the head, and he fell from the car. The bandits then drove off with the car and the taxicab driver, who was wounded, was left on the road. The sheriff was taken to the Rock Island hospital, where he died.

Throw Out a Dragnet.
Moline Rock Island and Davenport police were notified of the shooting immediately and a dragnet was thrown out for the culprits. The bandits, who were armed with automatic pistols, shot the sheriff in the back of the head, and he fell from the car. The bandits then drove off with the car and the taxicab driver, who was wounded, was left on the road. The sheriff was taken to the Rock Island hospital, where he died.

Clues to the Identity of the Bandits.
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serious footpad was later picked up by his companions. What became of the Dodge sedan is a mystery. The police had no solved up to noon today. It is believed that the car must have been abandoned by the robbers shortly after the bandits had overhauled the taxi drivers on Fifth avenue.

Native of Norway.
Jacob S. Wigers was born at Larvig, Norway, March 24, 1867, and came to America when a lad of 12 years. Shortly after his arrival he located in Moline, where for many years he worked as a brick mason.

Surviving besides the widow are two sons, Corporal Allen S. Wigers, stationed in Virginia in the marine corps, and Jacob Sidney, at home, and two daughters, Norma and Mildred, also at home. He leaves also one sister, Mrs. William Beck of Moline.

Wilson Returns to Paris

Fear Resignations of Italian Chiefs May Delay Parley

Paris, Dec. 31.—(Havas.)—The resignation of the Italian ministers may delay the opening of the preliminary peace conference until Jan. 15, according to the Echo of Paris. In addition to Leonida Discolaf, minister of military and naval affairs, and Signor Barentini, minister of education, and Signor Barile, minister of public works, are said to have left the Orlando cabinet.

The plans for the departure of President Wilson for Rome on Wednesday night will not be affected by the crisis in the Italian cabinet. The cabinet situation in Rome, it is said, is purely political and outside the range of the president's visit to Italy.

Interest is manifested among conference delegates and in French political circles in President Wilson's trip to Italy because of the importance of the subjects he is expected to discuss there.

Foremost among these subjects, it is supposed, will be questions relative to the Adriatic, Dalmatian and Balkan coast, concerning which the Jugoslavians and the Italians are in dispute.

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U.S. MEN AND ALLIES HAVE RUSS IN HAND

Situation in Archangel Region Officially Reported as Favorable.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Favorable reports on the situation in the Archangel region of Russia, where some unofficial accounts have pictured the north Russian, allied and American forces as facing a desperate struggle, are being given to the state department by G. A. Martiuszine, representative of the Archangel government.

It was officially stated today that Mr. Martiuszine had conferred with Acting Secretary Polk and that his information showed the situation well in hand from the viewpoint of the allies.

According to these reports, the Bolshevik soldiers are offered by the Americans and consequently are able to make good use of their artillery and rapid fire guns, but they have no stomach for fighting that does not keep them at a distance from their opponents.

Has No Reports of Hardships.
Mr. Polk said the department had no information to bear out the reports referred to in the senate yesterday that American soldiers in Archangel region were sleeping in swamps and were without proper clothing for the arctic climate.

Americans Decorated.
Allied Headquarters in Northern Russia, Sunday, Dec. 29.—(By the Associated Press.)—The first French decorations to be awarded for gallantry in action on the north Russian front have been conferred on three American privates who distinguished themselves in an action under a French commander in the Volga railway sector.

Forces Well Clothed.
Bolshevik forces attempted recently to raid the allied line of communication in the Spensker region and there are signs that reinforcements are reaching the enemy. The morale of the Bolsheviks, however, is reported to be low, the enemy's army being perfectly clothed for the arctic winter in contrast to the American forces, as well as the other allied and loyal Russian forces, who are well armed and blanketed.

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 31.—Warning of a cold wave over most of Iowa tonight and tomorrow, the federal weather bureau here predicted today the temperature would fall to five degrees below zero in the central part of the state.

German Disorders Follow Outbreaks of Bolshevism

London, Dec. 31.—Bolshevism broke out in German Silesia Saturday, according to a Berlin dispatch. Striking miners seized officers of the companies employing them, and compelled them to sign "all sorts of documents," the dispatch says.

It is stated that the disorders are of a Russian Bolshevik character and there has been murdering and pillaging in the affected region. Silesia has been declared a Bolshevik republic, it is said.

England Uneasy at Clemenceau View and Pres. Wilson's

London, Dec. 31.—Morning newspapers give great and equal prominence to the speech of Premier Clemenceau before the French chamber of deputies and President Wilson's address at Manchester. By juxtaposition the striking passages and by their comment the newspapers reveal a certain uneasiness in consequence of the apparent divergence between M. Clemenceau and Mr. Wilson.

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Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 31.—It's not half bad to be a mail carrier, at a salary of \$15 a day, says a letter from the Des Moines postoffice authorities looking for seven boys with motorcycles, to take just such fellows to carry special delivery messages. Business in this department has become so heavy that it has been found necessary to increase the carrier force. Boys are paid a commission on every special delivery package or letter they carry, which makes their daily salaries often run as high as \$15.

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BRITISH FOLK DEFY VICTORY TO SEE HIM OFF

Crowds Line Streets on Way to Train to Cheer U. S. Chief.

London, Dec. 31.—President and Mrs. Wilson left Victoria station at 9:18 this morning on a special train enroute to France. King George and Queen Mary and Duke of York and Mrs. Wilson to the station. Premier Lloyd George was on the platform and saw the president and his wife depart. The Scots guard formed the guard of honor and the band of the Irish king followed.

Crowds Defy Rain.
It was dark and raining morning but crowds lined the streets from Buckingham palace to the station and cheered as the president's procession passed. President Wilson and King George were in the first carriage. Mrs. Wilson, Queen Mary and King George were in the second, and members of the president's party and court officials were in the three other carriages. Mrs. Wilson's umbrella was raised on account of the rain but she nodded and smiled to the crowds.

Band Plays "Over There."
As Queen Mary and Mrs. Wilson, followed by President Wilson and King George, left the station, the band played "Over There." The guests of the platform applauded enthusiastically.

Salts From Dover.
Dover, Dec. 31.—The presidential train reached Dover at 11 o'clock and little time was lost in boarding the steamer Brighton, which set out almost immediately on the cross-channel trip.

Italy War Loss In Dead 460,000

Number of Italian Soldiers Killed On All Fronts Large—947,000 are Wounded.

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 31.—The supreme command of the Italian army has announced that Italian losses on all fronts during the war totaled 460,000 dead. Of this number 16,362 were officers. Of the 947,000 wounded, 33,447 were officers.